

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. after the School Committee met in Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for personnel and Section 42-46-5(a)(8) relative to student disciplinary hearings, and reported that no votes were taken and the minutes were sealed. Present for the open session were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Healy-Mills and Mr. Tarro. Dr. Dominguez arrived at 7:39 p.m. Absent was Mr. Fuller.

Mrs. Brody introduced members of the Committee present at the meeting: Student Representative Mr. Timothy Connor, Mr. Patrick Guida and Dr. Robert Shea. Mrs. Brody noted for the record that Dr. Paula Dominguez will be late arriving to the meeting and that Mr. Scott Fuller was not present at this time.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Patricia Tolento led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

The Spotlight on Teaching and Learning agenda item was taken out of order on the agenda.

Mrs. Dillon introduced Hampden Meadows School Head Teacher and Math Specialist Mrs. Patricia Tolento and Reading Specialist Mr. Brian Fernandes. Mrs. Tolento and Mr. Fernandes provided examples of Math and English Language Arts student workshops at Hampden Meadows School. Student workshops include technology integration and student guided discussions in addition to Math and English Language Arts specific topics.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington School Committee Vice Chair, Dr. Paula Dominguez, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for 2014. Her research will take her to India, where she will work with state policy makers in Maharashtra as they begin to plan and implement a new approach to community college that is more closely connected to workforce development. Dr. Dominguez's daughters, Erica and Lauren, will go with her and attend school for a semester in Mumbai.

The Barrington High School LifeSmarts team has won the Rhode Island State Championship and will compete in the Nationals in April in Florida. Mr. Messore congratulated seniors Cassidy Laidlaw and Ryan Jerue; and juniors Steven Forte, Matthew Lamontagne, and Brian McGartoll.

Seven Hampden Meadows fifth grade students have been accepted into the Elementary All-State Chorus: Kylie Lavin, Sydney Duncan, Anastasia Vargas, Meera Mennillo, Zoey Despines, Olivia Tumber, and Kate McCarty.

Barrington High School Freshman Lindsay Daugherty won a Silver Key Award in the 2014 Scholastic

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

Page 2

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14

Art and Writing Awards for her short story titled “My Explanation”.

Four Barrington High School Computer Club students achieved first place honors at the 28th Annual High School Programming Contest: senior Liam Callanan; junior Teddy Ni; and sophomores Sahil Mishra and Vincent Portelli.

The Barrington High School Future Business Leaders of America achieved 40 top five finishes at the Rhode Island Future Business Leaders 36th Annual State Leadership Conference. First place finishers include: juniors Emily DePasquale and Cameron Hummel for Digital Video Production; junior Steven Forte for Economics, Insurance and Risk Management, and Personal Finance; junior Teddy Ni for Business Procedures; sophomore Julia Forte for Health Care Administration, and Introduction to Business; sophomore Sahil Mishra for Desktop Application Programming; sophomore Sarah Nowak for Cyber Security; sophomore Vivian Tian for Desktop Publisher, and Public Speaking I; freshman Sabrina Hackett for Digital Design and Promotion; and freshman Stephen Johnston for Website Development.

The Barrington High School Girls Ice Hockey Team won the State Championship for the third straight year.

Junior Adam Kelly has been named the 2014 New Balance National Weight Throw Champion.

The Barrington Middle School Robotics Team competed in the recent Technology and Engineering Competition. Taking 1st place in Model Bridge Building/Structural Engineering were 8th graders Andrew Cooke and Theenash Kumar. Barrington Middle School took all three awards for Model CO2 Dragsters: First place to 8th grader Jack Hoder; second place to 8th grader Robley McGarry; and third place to 8th grader Conor McGartoll. The robotics team also placed first and includes team members: 8th graders Axel Weber and Rayna Mishra; 7th graders Calvin Li, Nicholas Li, Oskar Schnippering, Robert Dubel; and 6th graders Kevin Zhu and Andrew Chong.

Barrington Middle School students competed at the Rhode Island Science & Engineering Fair. Winners include 8th graders Katherine Hilty and Rayna Mishra for Best of Fair and a Special Award for their project “Got Water”. Other winners include First Grant and Special Award to 8th graders Mary Kate DeRiso and Faith Polando’s for “Negative to Positive”; First Grant to 7th graders Yevin Chung and Esther Lee for “Decorative Trash Cans”; Second Grant and Special Award to 8th graders Grace Inman and Sara Caskey for “Does Chocolate Improve Working Memory”; Second Grant to 8th grader Lindsey Hands for “Chewing Gum and Memory Performance” and 8th Graders Brooke Harrop, Natalie Rotondo, and Morgan Reilly for “Which Age Group Will Donate the Largest Amount of Toys to a Charitable Toy Drive?”; and Third Grant to 7th graders Calvin Li and Samuel Soares for “Musical Heartbeats”.

Sowams School and Primrose Hill School 2nd graders made it into the Leading Schools category after the second meet in the Continental Math League competition. Michael Fay, a 3rd grader at Sowams, made it into the Leading Student Leaders category for scoring a perfect 6 out of 6 on both meets.

Information and Proposals

Mrs. Healy-Mills provided an overview of the Special Education services throughout the district, providing grade specific program information and distribution statistics by disability categories and

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14

grade level. Mrs. Healy-Mills introduced Mrs. Heather Navarro and Ms. Rose Murrin, both parents and board members on the district's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Mrs. Healy-Mills, Mrs. Navarro and Ms. Murrin spoke of recent SEAC events and strategies to grow the SEAC membership. Questions from the Committee included how information on the district's preschool program is communicated to the community and how success is measured with the inclusive program from the Middle School to High School.

Mrs. Dillon presented an overview of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) scores across the district for Reading, Math and Writing. Building administrators were present to report on their schools' achievement data. The building administrators previously presented baseline data to the Committee on December 19, 2013. Primrose Hill School Principal Mrs. Paula Montesi, Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead and Sowams School Principal Mr. James Callahan presented growth data for Grades K-3 including Aims Web testing, Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Math and Reading, NECAP cohort data and common assessments for writing. Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee provided data including grade level opinion writing for Grades 4-5. Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson provided an overview of how the data is used in decision making, and along with Mrs. Dillon provided information on new instruction tools aligned to the Common Core State Standards that are used to build common assessments. Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley provided updated data and included information on academic intervention strategies for English Language Arts and Math. Questions from the Committee include the calculation for student growth and a request for updated information with regard to graduation requirements to include the number of students at risk. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the district website.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Debby Perugini, of 6 Ferncliff Road, asked when the field trip policy would become an agenda item, stressing the importance of missed participation opportunities for several students at Barrington Middle School. Mr. Guida noted that the administration has contacted him to begin discussion to draft the policy. Mrs. Brody stated that this topic will be proposed as a future agenda item in the Discussion of Future Agenda Items portion of the meeting.

Ms. Courtney Smith, representative for Local 217, the union for hotel and food service workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island, urged the Committee as they consider contact bids for food service that they select a company that will retain the current staff of local workers, many of whom live in Barrington, as well as current wage standards and health benefits.

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, commended the presentation from the building administrators and the investment in data. Dr. Douglas continues to welcome the change in conversation to hear where the opportunities for growth are and what might be the next best high yield investment. Mrs. Dillon noted that analysis continues and collaboration with Solution Tree to build strong assessments.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore introduced Mr. Michael Curry, representative for the East Bay lacrosse and soccer community organizations, who provided updated information on the proposed privately funded athletic

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

Page 4

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14

training wall at the Barrington Middle School. Mr. Messore noted the required insurance coverage by the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust. Mr. Messore is also scheduled to meet with town officials next week to discuss potential safety concerns. Mr. Curry requested formal approval from the Committee, adding that he is scheduled to go before the Town Council on April 7, 2014.

Following discussion,

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to support the athletic training wall grant as presented with the understanding that the Superintendent will confirm and report on insurance, liability and safety issues to the Committee. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro reported that there are no changes to the proposed FY2014-2015 budget at this time. Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore have presented the proposed budget information at the recent PTO meetings and to the Barrington Education Foundation. The School Committee is scheduled to meet next with the Committee on Appropriations in April.

Mr. Messore provided several updates relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. A request for proposal has been advertised for consulting services for a communication/media specialist and is due March 31. A student leadership forum was held at Barrington High School on March 14, 2014 with targeted discussion on technology in school, changes to the curriculum, and stress level of students. Mr. Connor provided feedback on the event attended also by teachers and administration, noting that time ran out before students were able to discuss levels of stress. A student-only event may be scheduled in late April or early May. Mr. Messore noted that the K-5 Parent Math Night is scheduled for March 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Barrington Middle School and a website will be created and shared with parents that will provide Math resources for Grades K-5.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Tarro reported that architect, Mr. Thomas Lonardo, continues to finalize plans to address the district's immediate health and safety needs with Mr. Joseph DaSilva, school construction coordinator for the Rhode Island Department of Education. Bid specifications will be released as soon as possible.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Paul Feather, HS, Assistant Girls Softball Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Michael Gesmondi, HS, Assistant Football Coach and Head Freshman Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14

Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Zachary Green, HS, Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Michael Rejto, HS, Sailing Club Advisor. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Vincent Scandura, HS, Assistant Baseball Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Kristina Scotto, HS, Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

New Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Smoking and Use of Electronic Cigarettes/Vaping or Other Similar Devices in Public Schools was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. Discussion ensued following Dr. Dominguez's concern for the loss of instructional time for students with suspension from school. Dr. Dominguez may propose an addendum to the Policy Subcommittee. The policy will be presented for a second reading at the next Committee meeting.

Decision Items

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore stated that an update on students not meeting proficiency on NECAP testing will be presented at the next meeting on April 3, 2014. Scheduled to attend the April 3, 2014 meeting will be an AT&T representative to present information on the proposed cell tower at the Sowams School. Mr. Messore noted that communication will be sent to Sowams School and Hampden Meadows parents regarding the upcoming scheduled date for the presentation. A discussion on the district Diploma Waiver policy is slated for April 17, 2014. An update on the district wide bullying policy will be presented twice a year, with the next update on June 5, 2014.

Mrs. Brody asked for a timeline on the presentation of the district field trip policy for School Committee review. Mr. Guida, member of the Policy Subcommittee, noted that the policy may be finalized before

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/20/14
the next meeting.

Dr. Dominguez noted that with the array of new assessments available, would there be an opportunity to rethink the current portfolio of assessments. Mr. Messore stated that an update will be provided at the April 17, 2014 meeting, and included will be a discussion on the quality of homework.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, April 3 is district report night.

Mrs. Brody reported the Committee will hold a Governance Workshop on March 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Barrington High School Library. This workshop is the first in a series of five two-hour sessions that the Committee will participate in as part of a pilot program in partnership with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:25 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for personnel; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining and litigation with BEST; Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues; and Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for discussion relative to student disciplinary hearings. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:37 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:38 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.